

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 4, 2004. Claims 1, 11-20, 24-31 and 175-80 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 17, 18, 20 and 27 and 176-180 are in independent form. Claims 11, 12 and 28 have been cancelled, and their recitations incorporated into various of the independent claims, as discussed below; these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Including these changes, and other, formal ones, Claims 1, 13-15, 17, 18, 20, 24-27, 29 and 175 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 176-180 have been added. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 12-15, 17, 18, 25, 28 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claims 17 and 18 have been so rewritten, and the recitations of Claims 11 and 12 have been incorporated into Claim 1. In addition, the recitations of Claim 28 have been incorporated into Claims 20 and 27. The newly added independent claims are method claims corresponding respectively to the five apparatus claims.

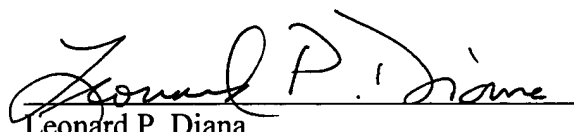
Accordingly, all the independent claims should be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

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